

We Claim:

1. An adhesive-backed film application tool for applying an adhesive-backed film to a first surface of an adherend, said adherend further including a second surface, said tool comprising:

5           a directing structure adapted to engage said second surface of said adherend;  
an application structure pivotably coupled to said directing structure;  
an element for biasing said directing and application structures toward one another such that said directing and application structures are capable of being releasably clamped to said adherend; and  
10           said application structure including at least one element for applying the adhesive-backed film to said first surface and guide structure for properly locating said adhesive-backed film relative to said applying element and said first surface, said guide structure having a movable guide surface capable of being located in a first position corresponding to a first dimension of said adhesive-backed film and a second position corresponding to a 15 second dimension of said adhesive-backed film.

2. An adhesive-backed film application tool as set forth in claim 1, wherein said application structure further includes a main body.

20           3. An adhesive-backed film application tool as set forth in claim 2, wherein said guide structure comprising a guide assembly which is movable relative to said main body, said guide assembly comprising a guide plate having a surface defining said movable guide surface.

25           4. An adhesive-backed film application tool as set forth in claim 3, wherein said guide assembly further comprises:

              an engagement bar;

              at least one slide rod passing through a bore in said main body and being fixedly coupled to said engagement bar and said guide plate; and

30           a spring for engaging said engagement bar and biasing said engagement bar and said guide plate to a second location such that said movable guide surface is located in said second position.

5. An adhesive-backed film application tool as set forth in claim 4, wherein said engagement bar is capable of being manually engaged to move said engagement bar against said spring such that said engagement bar and said guide plate are moved to a first location where said movable guide surface is located in said first position.

10 6. An adhesive-backed film application tool as set forth in claim 4, wherein said directing structure comprises a lever which is capable of engaging said engagement bar to move said engagement bar against said spring such that said engagement bar and said guide plate are moved to a first location where said movable guide surface is located in said first position.

15 7. An adhesive-backed film application tool as set forth in claim 6, wherein said main body is provided with a first magnetic element and said engagement bar is provided with a second magnetic element which, when positioned adjacent to said first magnetic element, attracts to said first magnetic element, said first and second magnetic elements releasably coupling said engagement bar to said main body when said engagement bar and said guide plate are moved to said first location.

20 8. An adhesive-backed film application tool as set forth in claim 7, wherein said guide plate comprises a section which engages a portion of said adherend approximately where said first surface of said adherend changes widths, said adherend portion causing said guide plate to move toward said main body while said engagement bar moves away from said main body such that said first and second magnetic elements are separated sufficiently to allow said spring to move said engagement bar and said guide plate to said second location.

30 9. An adhesive-backed film application tool as set forth in claim 6, wherein said main body is provided with a first connector element and said engagement bar is provided with a second connector element which is releasably engageable with said first connector element so as to releasably couple said engagement bar to said main body when said engagement bar and said guide plate are moved to said first location.

10. An adhesive-backed film application tool as set forth in claim 3, wherein said guide structure further comprises a lower guide plate which is spaced from and fixed in position relative to said main body, said lower guide plate having a surface defining a  
5 fixed guide surface which is spaced from said movable guide surface by a distance substantially equal to said first dimension when said movable guide surface is located in said first position and is spaced from said movable guide surface by a distance substantially equal to said second dimension when said movable guide surface is located in said second position.

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11. An adhesive-backed film application tool as set forth in claim 10, wherein said guide structure further comprises an outer guide which is spaced from said at least one applying element so as to define a gap for receiving said adhesive-backed film and an accompanying release liner.

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12. An adhesive-backed film application tool for applying an adhesive-backed film having at least first and second widths to a first surface of a sash, said sash further including a second surface, said tool comprising:

a directing structure adapted to engage said second surface of said sash;

20 an application structure pivotably coupled to said directing structure;

an element for biasing said directing and application structures toward one another such that said directing and application structures are capable of being releasably clamped to said sash; and

25 said application structure including at least one rotatable element for applying the adhesive-backed film to said first surface and guide structure for properly locating said adhesive-backed film relative to said rotatable element and said first surface, said guide structure having a movable guide surface capable of being located in a first position corresponding to said first width of said adhesive-backed film and a second position corresponding to said second width of said adhesive-backed film.

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13. An adhesive-backed film application tool as set forth in claim 12, wherein said application structure further includes a main body.

14. An adhesive-backed film application tool as set forth in claim 13, wherein said guide structure comprising a guide assembly which is movable relative to said main body, said guide assembly comprising a guide plate having a surface defining said movable  
5 guide surface.

15. An adhesive-backed film application tool as set forth in claim 14, wherein said guide assembly further comprises:

an engagement bar;

10 at least one slide rod passing through a bore in said main body and being fixedly coupled to said engagement bar and said guide plate; and

a spring for engaging said engagement bar and biasing said engagement bar and said guide plate to a second location such that said movable guide surface is located in said second position.

15 16. An adhesive-backed film application tool as set forth in claim 15, wherein said engagement bar is capable of being manually engaged to move said engagement bar against said spring such that said engagement bar and said guide plate are moved to a first location where said movable guide surface is located in said first position.

20 17. An adhesive-backed film application tool as set forth in claim 15, wherein said directing structure comprises a lever which is capable of engaging said engagement bar to move said engagement bar against said spring such that said engagement bar and said guide plate are moved to a first location where said movable guide surface is located in  
25 said first position.

18. A process for applying an adhesive-backed film having a first section with a first width and a second section with a second width to a first surface of a sash, said process comprising the steps of:

30 clamping an adhesive-backed film application tool to the sash;  
applying the adhesive-backed film to the first surface of the sash via at least one rotatable element of said tool, said tool including a movable guide surface capable of

being located in a first position corresponding to said first width of said adhesive-backed film and a second position corresponding to said second width of said adhesive-backed film; and

5 moving said guide surface to said second position approximately when said second section of said adhesive-backed film is to be applied to said sash first surface.

19. A process as set forth in claim 18, wherein said moving step is conducted manually.

10 20. A process as set forth in claim 18, wherein said moving step is conducted automatically.